and are not released directly to the States/UTs. The funds for Training and Entrepreneurial Development, Contingency etc. are released to the States/ UTs. An amount of Rs. 103.23 lakh and Rs. 30.22 lakh, respectively was released during the years 2001-02 and 2002-03 to Government of Punjab under the PMRY. The State Government releases these funds to its districts on its own.

(b) As on date, the State Government has a balance of Rs. 131.98 lakh from the funds released during the previous years. The release of funds for the year 2003-04 to Government of Punjab will depend the utilization of previously released funds by the State Government and the progress of the Scheme during the current year i.e. 2003-04.

Nuclear power generation capacity

4958. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently announced its intention to increase the nuclear power generation capacity from 2720 MW to 20,000 MW; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the generation cost per MW in comparison to the thermal power and the time-frame for its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The present nuclear power generating capacity in the country is 2720 MWe. This is scheduled to grow to 6680 MWe by December, 2008 progressively by completion of eight nuclear power reactor units (2x540 MWe at Tarapur, Maharashtra, 2x220 MWe at Kaiga, Karnataka, 2x1000 MWe at Kudankulam, Tamil Nadu and 2x220 MWe at Rawatbhata, Rajasthan) which are under construction. More projects, subject to the availability of funds, are planned so as to reach a total nuclear power capacity of about 10,000 MWe by end of XI Plan. The aim is to reach a total nuclear power generating capacity of about 20,000 MWe by the year 2020.

The capital cost per MWe of nuclear power plants is about Rs. 5 crore/MWe at 2001-02 prices. In regard to coal thermal power plants it is about 20% lower than that of nuclear. However, the cost of generation from nuclear power plants is comparable to that of contemporary thermal power plants at locations about 800 to 1000 km. from the coal pit-heads.